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REVENUE (1948) Department

No SERIES.

G.O. No.144

Dated 22nd January, 1948.

[Despatch Abstract.]

VILLAGE OFFICERS - Service Discipline - Madras Legislative Assembly Question - Papers recorded.

Revenue Department.

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE
(ASEMBLY SECTION)

UNSTARRED

SRI M. KANNIAPPANq M.L.A.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Q.No.1297.

Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state -

(a) how the service discipline in the village officers is regulated; and

(b) what are the Acts and rules and regulations made thereunder regulating service discipline?

Answer:

Clauses (a) and (B)

The service conditio of hereditary village officers in ryotwari are and of hereditary village servants other than talayaris in proprietary estates are governmed by the provisions of the Madras Hereditary Village Offices Act, 1895 (Madras ACt III of 1895) and the rules framed thereunder. The service conditions ~~in proprie-~~ of Headman, Karnams and Talayaris in priprietory estates are governed by the Madras Proprietary Estates' Act II of 1894 (Madras Act II of 1894) and the rules framed thereunder and, if the offices are hereditary, also by Madras Act III of 1895 and rules thereunder. The service conditions of other village officers are governed by the Board's Standing Orders.

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6-1-1948

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Village Officers - Service discipline - Legislative Assembl
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To A.S.III.

Please see the Legislative Question at page 1 C.F. I
is unstarred.

2.The Village Officers may be divided into three classes

(1) The Headman: He is the representative of the Government in the village, the village magistrate and the head of the village police. He is usually also the village munsiff with certain powers of civil jurisdiction. His principal duty is the collection of the revenues of the village.

(2) The Karnam. He maintains the accounts of the villa ge relating to cultivation and land revenue and is expected to assist the village headman in every way.

(3) The village menials: These usually consisit of (1) talayaris who are intended for police duties and (2) vettis who act as Village peons. These are under the orders of the Headman but a vetti usually works under the karnam.

3.Hereditary offices in ryotwari areas are governed by the provisions of the Madras Hereditary Village Offices Act, 1895. The Act did not create any hereditary right of succession to village offices which were not previously hereditary in character, but defined the exact rights of succession to such offices as were recognised to be hereditary at the time and the procedure to be followed inregard to the appointment and punishment of such hereditary officers. Succession to such offices is determined by the general custom and rule of primogeniture governing succession to impartible estates in Southern India and provision is made for the registration of a minor and the discharge of his duties by a deputy to be appointed by the Revenue Divisional Officer. There is also provision for the recovery of hereditary village offices by a suit in the court of the Revenue Divisional Officer, with an appeal to the Collector and (in the case of the headman and karnam) a second appeal to the Board of Revenue. Females, persons mentally or physically incapable of discharging the duties of the office, persons not possessing the prescribed educational qualifications, persons who are or about to be declared insolvents andpersons convicted in a criminal court of an offence which is considered serious, are ineligible for appointment. Village officers can be fined, suspended dismissed or removed for misconduct, neglect of duty, incapabity, failure to reside in the village or any other sufficient cause.

4.The village offices of headman, karnam and talayari in proprietary estates are governed by the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894. If the offices are hereditary the provisions in the Madras Hereditary Village Offices Act, 1895 referred in para 3 above apply. In the case of hereditary village menials in proprietary estates other than talayaris, also the provisions in the Madras hereditary Village Offices Act, 189 apply, the principle of succession being determinad with reference to the law or custom prevailing on 1st Octobber 1895.

5.Village offices are not hereditary in the following areas:

The districts of Tanjore, the Nilgiris, South Kanara Malabar, Trichinopoly district (except certain villages in Kulittalai, Karur and Udaiyarpalayam taluks), Salem district (except certain villages in Omalur taluk), certain villages in South Arcot district, certain villages in Tirupattur taluk

P.T.O.

of North Arcot district and the villages of Anjengo and Tangasseri in the Tinnevelly district.

The exact reason for some offices being hereditary and others non-hereditary is not traceable but the difference of opinion on the part of the Collectors in the distant past seems to have been largely responsible for the village establishments in some districts not having the hereditary attribute attacked on to them.

Even in non-hereditary areas, the principle of hereditary succession is followed, as far as possible, in making appointments to village offices. The condition of service are also almost the same.

6. Salaries and allowances:(a): The pay of all village officers and servants was raised by Rs.3/- p.m. with effect from 1-8-1946. Taking this into consideration, the pay of all village officers and servants is as follows:-

Ryotwari

Village Headmen.	Rs.17/- p.m. in most cases.
Karnams.	Rs.18/- p.m. (minimum) in most cases.
Village servants.	Rs.11/- p.m. (minimum) in most cases.

Proprietary Estates:

Village Headmen:	Rs.11/- p.m. (minimum) in most cases.
Karnams:	Rs.11/- p.m. (minimum) and Rs.12/- p.m. in most cases.
Village servants:	Rs. 9/- p.m.

Besides pay, the village officers and servants of both ryotwari areas and proprietary estates are paid dearness allowance at the following rates:

Village headmen	Rs. 3/- p.m.
Karnams	Rs. 5/- p.m.
Village servants	Rs. 7/- p.m.

(b) for their journeys to taluk headquarters, an annual fixed travelling allowance at the following rates is paid to village servants of villages lying beyond a radius of 5 miles from the taluk headquarters.

Distance from Taluk Headuqarters.	Rate of allowance per annum Ryotwari villages	Proprietary villages.
5-10 miles	Rs. 12	Rs. 8
10-15 Miles	Rs. 15	Rs.10
15-20 miles	Rs. 18	Rs.12
Beyond 20 miles	Rs, 20	Rs-13-8-0

The allowance should be shared equally by the village servants in the villages who are normally employed in carrying accounts etc. to the taluk headquarters.

(c) A. Jambandi allowance at Rs.2Ø- is payable to only one village menial of each ryotwari village who accompanies the karnam and headman to the jamabandi camp, provided that the village does not lie within a radius of five miles of the jamabandi camp.

(d) For the additional duties which the officers discharge in connection with procurement and rationing of foodgrains, they are paid bonus at the following rates:

Headmen.	Rs. 6/- per annum.
Karnams.	Rs. 3/- per mensem.

7. Karnams should not take part in politics or stand for election to a Legislature, District Board, Panchayat Board Corporation

or Municipal Council. If any karnam desires to stand for such election or to tke part in politics (beyond recording his vote) he should resign his office before he is nominated for the election or takes part in politics. The same applies to headman also so far as Legislature is concerned, but they can get electe to local bodies after taking leave

8. The Government Servants' Conduct Rules do not apply to village officers. There is no objection to the village officers engaging in trade or other occupation or in taking up additional part-time work, provided their legitimate duties are not affected thereby and the previous permission of the Revenue Divisional Officer therefor has been obtained.

9. Last year, complaints were received from village officers that they were not treated courteously by their superior officers. The Government issued instructions that village officers should be treated courteously and properly.

10. A draft answer is submitted.

Sd. x x x
6-1-48.

H.M.(L.R.) Sd. x x x, 17-1-1948.

To A.S.III.

The Assembly was prorogued on 5-1-1948.

The question has lapsed (and was not been reviewed) The papers may be recorded for facility of reference.

G.O.Ms.No.144, dated 22-1-1948.

Recorded.

Abstract: Village Officers - Service Discipline - Madras Legislative Assembly question - Papers recorded.

Sd.x x x
Secretary to Govt.

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R. Thiagarajan 22.12

OFFICE ASSISTANT,
Madras Record Office.

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